

## **Welcome and General Introduction**

Welcome to the Common Core Academy where we will work together with our colleagues across the state in preparing for a thoughtful implementation of the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts, K-12.

“The Common Core State Standards were developed by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association center for Best Practices. These English language arts and mathematics standards represent a set of expectations for student knowledge and skills that high school graduates need to master to succeed in college and career. These standards reflect the invaluable feedback from the general public, teachers, leaders, parents, business leaders, states and content experts and are informed by the standards of other high performing nations. The college- and-career-readiness standards have been incorporated into the K-12 standards. The following criteria were used to develop the standards:

- Aligned with college and work expectations;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills;
- Build upon strengths and lessons of the current state standards;
- Informed by top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and,
- Evidence and/or research-based” (excerpt taken from the “Introduction to the Common Core State Standards”).

### **The Common Core 2011 Academy**

The fifty-six Common Core Academy facilitators from twenty-two districts and charters were selected from over one hundred applicants. The facilitators are teachers, district secondary English language arts specialists and instructional coaches whose expertise includes Special Education, Alternative Language Services, Gifted and Talented, and English Department leadership.

Each grade level team has been working together since the end of March on the design of the Common Core Academy for their grade level based on a USOE framework that was developed with input from the following stakeholders:

- The statewide Common Core Task Force which included members of the Utah State Board of Education and various USOE departments including Special Education, Title I and Assessment, universities, districts, and schools throughout the state;
- The statewide secondary Language Arts committee representing every district in the state as well as university partners;
- The curriculum directors’ meetings;

- Representatives from Utah's Alternative Language Services departments in districts throughout the state who have been trained by the WIDA consortium (WIDA: World-class Instructional Design and Assessment) to support implementation of the English Language Proficiency standards as aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

The goal of the secondary Common Core Academy is to provide an essential introduction to the Common Core State Standards and support teachers in the implementation of the standards to ensure college-and-career-readiness for all students.